

REMARKS

Each rejection raised by the Examiner is addressed separately below. In view of the claim amendments noted above and the remarks below, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the merits of this patent application.

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 61 has been amended herein. Claims 1-59, 62, 65 and 68-70 have been cancelled. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification as filed. No new matter has been added.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claim 61 has been objected to because it recites "stear~~a~~othermophilus" instead of "stear~~o~~thermophilus". Claim 61 has been amended to correct this.

Claims 68-70 have been objected to as being duplicative of claim 61. Without agreeing to the Examiner's characterization of claim 68, and solely to move this case to allowance, Applicants have cancelled claims 68-70.

REJECTIONS UNDER §112

The rejection of claims 68-70 have rendered Examiner's comments regarding this rejection moot.

SUMMARY

Having addressed each issue raised by the Examiner, claims 60-61, 63-64 and 66-67, as amended, are believed to be in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below if such would advance the prosecution of this application.

No extension of time is believed to be due in connection with this response. However, if any additional extension of time is required in this or any subsequent response, please consider this to be a petition for the appropriate extension and a request to charge the petition fee to Deposit Account No. 17-0055. No other fee is believed to be due in connection with this response. However, if any

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fee is due in this or any subsequent response, please charge the fee to the same Deposit Account No.
17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,

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